

March 9, 2009

Testimony for the Education Committee
Regarding Bill #6565, "An Act Concerning Humane Education"

Dear Members of the Committee:

As a parent, I strongly support this bill. Humane education is critical in developing and maintaining a humane society. With much research showing the link between violence perpetrated against animals and violence perpetrated against people, the obvious has been proven. Those who have been taught compassion for all beings are naturally more compassionate to fellow human beings. This type of education is as valuable as English or mathematics, as it will help promote peace in our troubled world. I would also like to make a special note about section 3 of the bill, regarding conscientious objection to dissection. Considering that the vast majority of medical schools no longer even use animal labs, classroom dissection seems like a terrible waste of life. It devalues life, and desensitizes our children, teaching them that life is disposable. With today's technology, students can learn the same lessons, more compassionately. Therefore, it would seem reasonable end to all dissection. However, in the meantime, students should certainly have the right to refuse dissection on ethical grounds, without any penalty. Alternatives should be provided to these students, and compassion should be rewarded, not punished.

Thank you for your attention.

Julia Caruk
190 Old Farm Road
South Windsor, CT 06074